(b) what is the present number of LPG connections existing in the city ; and

(c) by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) 87,000 (approx.)

(b) 2,13,800 (approx.)

(c) Efforts are constantly on to give LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible subject to availability of LPG.

Oil exploration off Pondicherry coast

2195. DR. ABRAR AHMED :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil exploration activity off the Pondicherry-Cuddalore coast is likely to be called off shortly ;

(b) since when the drilling in the area has been going on and what are the results so far ; and

(c) what are the reasons for calling off the activities ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Exploratory drilling in this area started with the drilling of first well in July '78, which proved dry. In the last two years 4 wells have been drilled without establishing any hydro-carbon reserves.

(c) Does not arise.

Restructuring of ONGC and Oil

2196. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to change the structure of ONGC and Oil India Limited (OIL) to improve its functioning ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government also propose to promote the private sector participation in these two PSUs ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) by when the structure of these two PSUs is likely to be changed ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a), (b) and (e) Government have constituted a Committee to examine all organisational aspects of ONGC and recommend any structural change The Committee is expected to submit its report by 31-8-1992. There is no proposal to restructure Oil India Ltd.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Waiting list for LPG in Madhya Pradesh

2197. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that new LPG connections have not been released to the waiting consumers in the State of Madhya Pradesh for the last several years ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the cut off dates for release of LPG connections in 45